

ISSUE 64
AUTUMN 2024

Thank you for your interest in the Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre. Our Seasonal newsletter, "Marsh Matters," will keep you up-to-date on what is happening at Wye Marsh!

We have The Birds of
Georgian Bay books back!



Check out our
Autumn events!



Volunteer Spotlight...
and more!



MUSIC IN THE MARSH

OPEN-AIR CONCERT

September 14th, 2024, 7-9 pm
\$30 "All In"


Suzie McNeil
& Andrew Mactaggart

B.Knox

Marshall
Dane

Wye Marsh is open daily at 9:00AM. Our Trail Systems close at 4:30PM and the Visitor Centre at 5:00PM.

 16160 Highway 12 East, Midland, ON L4R 1K6  705-526-7809  info@wyemarsh.com

 wyemarsh.com

 [wyemarshwildlifecentre](https://www.facebook.com/wyemarshwildlifecentre)

 [wyemarsh](https://www.instagram.com/wyemarsh)



A message from the Executive Director

After a wonderful and busy summer, we are looking forward to Fall, and a couple of very exciting upcoming projects and changes!

The first project is one for which we have been raising funds for 18 months – the revitalization of the Bird Barn housing our bigger Birds of Prey including Scarlet the Red-tailed Hawk, Darwin the Turkey Vulture, Ziibi the Bald Eagle, and Becker the Great Horned Owl. We are VERY close to reaching our financial goal, and are moving forward with the engineered plans, environmental assessments and federal permits required with a hopeful start date of mid-October, and conclusion by the end of 2024. This project will be overseen by Facilities Manager Paul Beauchamp. If you would like to be part of this monumental project, please speak with me or Animal Care Coordinator Johanna Rumney to learn more about how you can help. At the time of writing, we are only \$40K away from our total goal of over a ¼ million dollars. We would love your assistance in getting us across the finish line!

The second project will focus on our trails – more specifically making some of our trails more physically accessible for visitors thanks to funding from Environment and Climate Change Canada; and making it easier for visitors to find their way on the trails thanks to funding for new directional signage from Tourism Simcoe County. This project will be overseen by Stewardship & Conservation Manager Craig Pezik, working closely with Canada Wildlife Services. This will limit trail access to the Hardwood and Return trails for much of October and November, but access will continue to be available to visitors via the Service Road. Won't it be nice to finally see some new directional signage on the Wye Marsh trails?

We also want to take this opportunity to introduce you to our new Education Coordinator, Chris Burns! He will be taking the role formerly held by Jennifer Pelletier, who left our organization in July. Chris joins us with years of experience working as an interpreter at Sainte Marie, a teacher for the Simcoe County District School Board, and as a volunteer with several local organizations. Please join us in welcoming Chris when you get a chance to meet him in the coming month.

We look forward to seeing you at Wye Marsh this Autumn!

Kim Hacker,
Executive Director





A MESSAGE FROM

the President of the Board of Directors

Once again, we have had the pleasure of another excellent summer, both here at the marsh, and in our 'off site' lives! Yes, we had challenging days with sudden bouts of hot humid weather or some terrific storms. Just a wee reminder that Mother Nature is in charge, and does not necessarily pay attention to the Weather Network. As always, the staff and volunteers here at the marsh took all that was thrown at them in stride, with smiles and laughter.

With the onset of fall there are more great adventures ahead, with the added bonus of marvellous fall colours, as well as experiencing the migration patterns of birds and other fine critters.

For the second year come and have a grand time at "Music in the Marsh", running from 7 – 9 pm on September 14th. Doors open at 6:30 pm. Come and experience the incredible music performed by extremely talented artists Marshall Dane, Juno award winner Suzie McNeil with Andrew Mactaggart, and B.Knox.

Also this fall enjoy such workshops as, Poison Pie, Other Fungi and Parasitic Plants on September 8th; Fluid Acrylics on September 14th; Making & Playing Creative Molds on October 5th; Forest Bathing on September 26th; and great Halloween fun on the Trails, October 27th.

On weekends from September to Thanksgiving come out and enjoy guided kayak or canoe tours.

The marsh is once again excited to hold our Online Silent Auction, November 15-24th. Keep an eye out for all of the marvellous items you can bid on!

We are also excited with the upcoming renovations to the Bird Barn, to better the living environment to our most excellent winged ambassadors. Our fundraising efforts are continuing to ensure we are proving our feathered family members a safe and comfortable environment.

And remember, the marsh is open 7 days a week, 362 days a year. Every day at the marsh can bring new sightings, new sounds, and as always the peace and tranquility wandering within the natural world brings us!

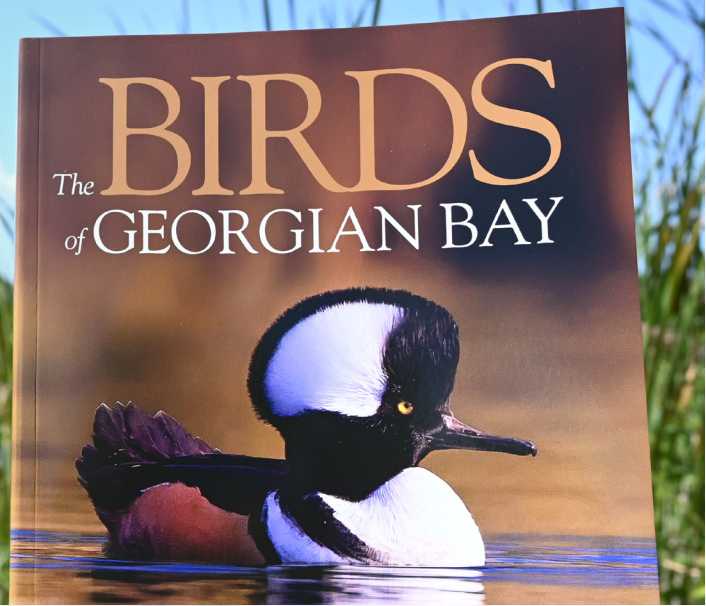
And my huge thank you to the staff and volunteers of the Wye Marsh. You all do a fantastic job!

Rick Brady, President, Friends of Wye Marsh



**Our Valued Wye Marsh
Corporate Event Sponsor**

Friends of Wye Marsh are proud to once again be selling Bob Whittam's book, "The Birds of Georgian Bay!"



As many of you know, this book was written by former Wye Marsh Executive Director Bob Whittam, a renowned local biologist who had a life-long passion for birding. It features stunning photographs to assist the reader in understanding the common birds of Georgian Bay.

"The Birds of Georgian Bay" contains great insights into how to identify local birds, and discusses their behaviour, population status and reasons why they choose various areas of Georgian Bay as their home.



This beautiful book is available for sale in our gift shop for \$40 (including tax) and makes a wonderful gift!

Thank you again to the Whittam family for this generous donation to Friends of Wye Marsh.

Executive Director Kim Hacker (Left) presents Judy Whittam (Right), widow of Bob Whittam, with reprints of "The Birds of Georgian Bay."



MEET THE FORMAS, PETER & LAURA Our Volunteers of the Year!

As you know, the Friends of Wye Marsh is a not-for-profit charitable organization taking care of 3,000 acres of provincially significant wetlands and national forests here in the Heart of Georgian Bay. Our mission is to be a centre of excellence for wetlands research, interpretation and education based on the principals of stewardship and the importance of environmental awareness.

And none of this could happen without our wonderfully talented, generous volunteers.

This summer, we had the chance to shine our spotlight on a dynamic duo: Peter & Laura Forma.

These two **Trail Ambassadors** have been an integral part of our Wye Marsh family for years. They burst with personality and radiate a passion for Wye Marsh that is infectious. Their ability to share their enthusiasm and understanding of natural history instills a sense of curiosity and wonder in visitors, volunteers and staff alike. They are helping foster environmental stewardship at a grass roots level, and they are always ready to pitch in any way that they can.

We appreciate their ongoing support and flexibly shown whenever they:

- Scan tickets, direct traffic, and host a maple syrup taste challenge at special events;
- Trim branches and groom trails to keep everyone safe;
- Tend a fire and serve Bannock to international students seeking a unique Canadian experience; and
- Paddle through inky black waters to give visitors the chance to fall in love with our Marsh by Moonlight.

While one is quick to add to our scientific data by participating in our annual Global Big Day bird count - and makes a wicked strawberry pie - the other keeps us smiling with their humour and wit; and occasional “on air” presence. Together, they have helped raise thousands of dollars as BINGO volunteers to feed and enrich the lives of our Animal Ambassadors.

In recognition for their time, dedication, and many valuable contributions to Wye Marsh, our 2024 Wye Marsh Volunteers of the Year Award was presented to Peter & his “BRIDE” Laura Forma!

Congratulations to you both. And thank you to everyone who has volunteered at Wye Marsh and contributed to our success!



MEET KENNY The American Kestrel

REASON FOR LIVING AT WYE MARSH:

Human Imprint- Illegal Falconry Use

AGE: 3

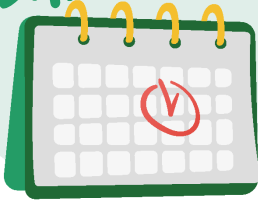
American Kestrels are North America’s most common and widespread falcon. They are about the size of a Mourning Dove and are often seen on power lines in farmlands. Unfortunately, their population declined by an estimated 51% between 1966 and 2017. Recent studies point to a lack of food availability, possibly tied to widespread pesticide use, as one of several reasons for the continuing declines.





DAYS TO CELEBRATE & COMMEMORATE

MARK YOUR
CALENDARS!



Vulture Awareness Day
September 7th

Water Monitoring Day
September 18th

Autumn Equinox
September 21st

Tree Day
September 25th

Environmental Health Day
September 26th

World Rivers Day
September 22nd

Orange Shirt Day
September 30th

World Habitat Day
October 7th

World Mental Health Day
October 10th

Reptile Awareness Day
October 21st

World Ecology Day
November 1st

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE WYE MARSH THIS AUTUMN



POISON PIE,
OTHER FUNGI
& PARASITIC
PLANTS

Saturday, September 8th, 1:30 - 3:30 pm

Black Witch's Butter? Devil's Urn? Deadly Galerina and Poison Pie? Join us for a fascinating 2 hour workshop, shining the spotlight on deadly sac fungi, jelly fungi, gilled mushrooms, slime molds and parasitic plants growing at Wye Marsh. Learn about their ecological roles, and the incredible communication networks they form. Enjoy a guided tour and make your own "spore print" to take home!

\$25 + HST per person. Ages 12 +

Please register at: www.wyemarsh.com/fungi-workshop



FLUID ACRYLICS
WORKSHOP

Saturday, September 14th, 1-3 pm

Find out why so many artists love working in acrylics! These wonderfully mixable, movable, fast-drying paints are ideal for creative experiments inspired by nature. Join Lisa Harpell for this introductory session. All materials are provided, and no experience is necessary.

\$65 + HST per person. Ages 14+

Sign up at: www.wyemarsh.com/art-in-the-marsh



MUSIC IN
THE MARSH

Saturday, September 14th, 7-9 pm

An Open-Air Fundraising Concert! Let the sweet sounds of acoustic guitars, soft rock ballads, and country melodies lead you along the trails for a magical night at Wye Marsh. Featuring Marshall Dane, Suzie McNeil & Andrew Mactaggart and B.Knox.

\$30 ALL IN. Ages 16+

Please Register at <https://www.wyemarsh.com/music-in-the-marsh>



EXPERIENCE
FOREST
BATHING

Thursday, September 26th, 2:30 - 4:30 pm

For centuries the people of Japan have sought out the healing powers of nature. Now, you too can experience the ancient art of Shinrin-Yoku.

A slow sensory walk in nature brings so many joyful moments, while also enhancing our physical, emotional and spiritual wellbeing.

\$30 + HST per person. Ages 16+

Please Register at <https://www.wyemarsh.com/forest-bathing>



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE WYE MARSH THIS AUTUMN



MAKING & PLAYING
WITH CREATIVE
MOLDS!

Tuesday, October 5th, 1-3pm

Create funky paper weights for your home, or stepping stones for the garden. Learn mold making basics with Lisa Harpell, and the possibilities are endless!

All materials are provided, and no experience is necessary.

\$75 + HST per person. Ages 14+

Registration required at <https://www.wyemarsh.com/art-in-the-marsh>



BARK, TWIGS,
LEAVES: TREE ID
WORKSHOP

Saturday, October 19th, 9:30-11:30am

Branch out, go out on a limb, and turn over a new leaf. Learn to identify trees from their silhouettes, leaves and bark patterns. Recognize their unique qualities; understand their ecological significance; and appreciate the symbiotic relationships formed with wildlife. \$25 each.

\$25 + HST per person. Ages 16+

For Details: <https://www.wyemarsh.com/fall-events>



HALLOWEEN IN
THE MARSH!

Sunday, October 27th, 10am-2pm

Put on your Halloween finery, pick up a "passport" for each child (while supplies last) then explore our trails at Wye Marsh. Meet a variety of well dressed woodland "spirits". Collect five or more stamps, and use them to claim a special treat in the Visitors Centre. **FREE ADMISSION to everyone in costume!**

For Details: www.wyemarsh.com/halloween



STAINED GLASS
CHICKADEES

Sunday, November 10th, 12-4pm

Make and take home your own stained glass chickadee suncatcher, complete with holly and berries. Learn the foil method of doing stained glass. Learn to cut, grind, foil and solder your own piece of art during this 4-hour workshop.

\$55 + HST per person. Ages 16+

Please Register at <https://www.wyemarsh.com/fall-events>



ONLINE
AUCTION
FUNDRAISER

November 15th-24th

Thanks to the generosity of last year's auction item donors, bidders, event sponsors and fundraising partners we managed to raise thousands of dollars for habitat restoration projects, environmental education programs and trail maintenance at Wye Marsh. Check out this year's offerings when our "Givergy" website goes live on November 15!

For Details: www.wyemarsh.com/Annual-Fundraiser



WINTER
OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, December 21st, 10am-3pm

Pay what you wish – and welcome winter in style at our Wye Marsh Open House. Meet our Birds of Prey. Hike the trails with a Naturalist. Go on a Scavenger Hunt. Warm up beside a crackling fire and enjoy some toasted Bannock. All activities included with admission. Admission by donation.

<https://www.wyemarsh.com/Open-House>



MARSH MATTERS NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 64
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AUTUMN PROGRAMMING ON WEEKENDS ONLY TILL THANKSGIVING



GUIDED KAYAK TOURS

Join our Naturalist on a 1-hour guided kayak tour and discover wildlife amongst the water lilies and cattails. Must be at least 8 years of age. Please sign up upon your arrival. Admission+\$10+HST / person.



GUIDED CANOE TOURS

Join our Naturalists on a 1-hour guided voyageur-style canoe tour of the Marsh channels. Tours are first come, first serve basis - no preregistration. Please sign up upon your arrival. Admission+\$8+HST/person.

PRIVATE ECOTOURS

Book a private three-hour guided Kayak Ecotour, for a unique outdoor experience that fits your schedule and interests. Please note - some physical endurance required.

We will take you well beyond the limits of our walking trails, providing you with the best opportunity to fully explore the beauty of Wye Marsh.



MANY THANKS TO OUR LONGTIME SUPPORTER



**Burrison
Hudani
Doris** LLP



VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DAY!

Volunteers make all the difference at the Wye Marsh!



Thank you to our Wye Marsh CITs

Our awesome Summer Camp Counsellors-in-Training invested more than 1,677 volunteer hours in:

- Being positive, enthusiastic, role models for our day camp participants
- Assisting with program delivery
- Keeping kids hydrated, safe, and having fun
- Encouraging Campers to try new things, increase their confidence and explore Wye Marsh!

We thank our 2024 CITs for enriching our day camp participant experiences and being great team players. Well done!

Emma
Annabel
Olivia Natalie Clara
Gavin Delson Jack Ari
Gracie Lauren Julien
Eleanor Layla
Milana

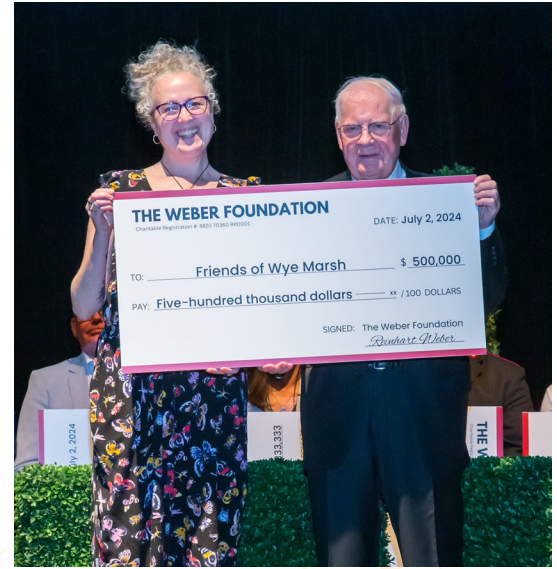


GARRAWAY'S

ELECTRICAL SERVICES

Supporting Conservation Projects & Environmental Education as a Corporate Event Sponsor





Friends of Wye Marsh are deeply grateful to Reinhart Weber and the Weber Foundation for their generous gift of \$500,000.

The Weber Foundation has been a regular supporter of Friends of Wye Marsh for decades, and funds provided annually have been used to purchase our Wi-fi tower, equipment such as our truck and tractor, and building supplies and materials to support our maintenance department.

This recent gift will be invested by the Weber Foundation for us to ensure we will receive annual funds as a source of continued long-term support for our organization.

CONNECTING FOR CONSERVATION ONLINE AUCTION

**BID HIGH for the chance
to WIN a 1 Year Family
Membership**

- Luxury Experiences
- Outdoor Adventures
- Festival Tickets
- Fabulous Food
- Art & More!



BID Nov. 15~24

www.wyemarsh.com/annual-fundraiser



SPONSORED BY





Marshall
Dane



Suzie McNeil
& Andrew
Mactaggart

B.Knox



WYE
MARSH

MUSIC THE MARSH &

OPEN - AIR CONCERT

September 14, 2024 7-9 pm \$30 "All In"

**Burrison
Hudani
Doris** LLP

*Alexandra Seaton
& Paddy Hanlon*



Scotia Wealth Management.

Enjoy a Fish Fry at Huronia Museum, from 1-4 pm on Sept. 14.
Then join us at Wye Marsh for Music in the Marsh!

FISH FRY

@ HERITAGE BOAT SHOW

WITH LEPAGE FISHERY

"FROM BOAT TO YOUR PLATE"

HURONIA MUSEUM



\$30 (tax included)
TWO Pieces of fresh
Georgian Bay Fish, Fries,
Coleslaw and Condiments.

Pre-Purchase Tickets in
person at Huronia Museum
549 Little Lake Park in
Midland, seven days a week,
9 am - 4:30 pm
Non Refundable



Mega Mindful LIVING

OCTOBER
FUNDRAISER

Proceeds from every Beet Smoothie & Gluten-free Choc Chip Almond Cookie go to Wye Marsh!

NOVEMBER
FUNDRAISER

25% of all gift card sales made Nov 16-24 support Wye Marsh!



As a not-for-profit charity, Friends of Wye Marsh appreciates your support as we rely on special events, fundraisers, gate admissions and program fees to deliver excellent environmental education programs, maintain trails and conduct habitat restoration projects.



WYE MARSH TRAILS SYSTEM

16160 Highway 12 East, Tay, ON (705) 526-7809



LEGEND

Hiking Trails		
Boardwalk		
Marsh March		1.9km (Wheelchair & stroller accessible friendly)
Hardwood & Return Trail		0.4 km
Muskrat Loop		1.6 km
Woodland Trail		1.5 km
I.D. Trails		0.9 km
Snowshoe Trails		
Service Road		

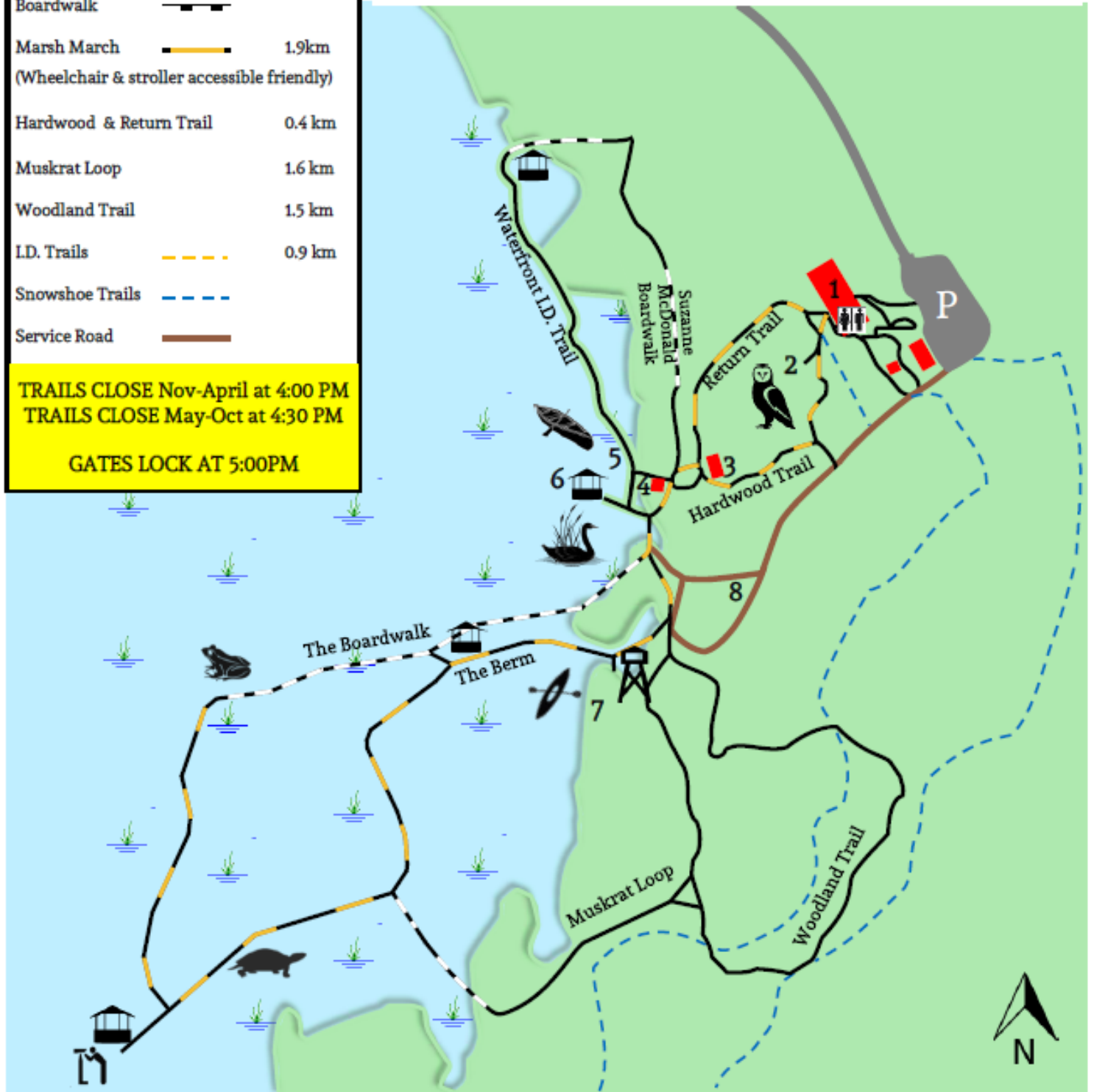
- 1 Visitor's Centre
- 3 Sugar Shack
- 5 Canoe Dock
- 7 Kayak Dock

- 2 Birds of Prey Field
- 4 Log Cabin
- 6 Waterfowl Monitoring Station
- 8 Tenting Field

	Open Land/Forest
	Wetland
	Building

TRAILS CLOSE Nov-April at 4:00 PM
TRAILS CLOSE May-Oct at 4:30 PM

GATES LOCK AT 5:00PM



Please use caution on all trails, walkways, boardwalks, waterways and property of the Wye Marsh. Appropriate hiking footwear is recommended. Slippery conditions exist when wet. Be aware that plant roots and loose rocks can create natural trip hazards when extending above paths. Immediately return to the Visitor's Centre if foul weather occurs.